

## Abstract

A method and system of providing a mobile data device in a wireless system with information about preferred networks to connect to, the mobile data device  
5 having a preferred roaming list with a list of networks, the method comprising the steps of: adding to the preferred roaming list information about whether each network in the list of networks supports third generation data capabilities; and determining preferred networks based on information within the preferred  
10 roaming list including a geographic area and whether the network supports third generation data capabilities, whereby, within the geographic area, the mobile data device prefers networks which support third generation data capabilities over networks which do not support said third generation data capabilities. Other information that may be added to the preferred roaming list includes whether the network supports data roaming, Mobile IP services or always-on features. The  
15 preferred roaming list may also include information about the device service capabilities.